

PUBLIC NOTICE

**MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**AGENDA**

**6:30 P.M., January 10, 2011**

**CITY HALL, CITY HALL CAFETERIA**

Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

[6:30 p.m.]

1. **Discussion:** Stephanie Gillman, Commissioner of the Public Buildings Department, seeking input from the Committee on access improvements in City Hall.

[7:00 p.m.]

2. **Minutes:** Consideration of the approval of the minutes from the December 13, 2010 meeting of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities.

[7:05 p.m.]

3. **Report:** Report on CDBG funded access improvements by Community Development staff.

[7:15 p.m.]

4. **Report:** Report on Fair Housing Committee from liaison, Girard Plante.

[7:25 p.m.]

5. **Discussion and Recommendations:** Consideration of a recommendation for an additional handicap parking space in West Newton Village and a recommendation for the relocation of the existing handicap parking space in Waban Square.

[7:45 p.m.]

6. **Discussion:** Discussion of FY12 priorities for the Committee (such as community education efforts) and webpage updates.

[8:15 p.m.]

7. **Report:** Members and public report on any issues of non-compliance in the City which are then forwarded to the Inspectional Services Department.

[8:25 p.m.]

8. **Other Business:** Update on the Committee's recommendation to transfer \$4,425 in CDBG Access funds from Access Projects To Be Determined (CD11-03H) to Accessible Pedestrian Signals (CD10-03G) to install Accessible Pedestrian Signals at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Washington Street.

Next Meetings: February 14, March 14, April 11

The location of this meeting is handicap accessible, and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you have a special accommodation need, please contact Kathleen Cahill by phone at (617) 796-1125, by email at [kcahill@newtonma.gov](mailto:kcahill@newtonma.gov) or via TDD/TTY at (617) 796-1089.

## **MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MINUTES**

December 13, 2010 City Hall, Rm 209, 6:30 p.m.  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts 02459

### **Members Present:**

Jane Brown  
Rob Caruso, Co-Chair  
Lucie Chansky  
Jini Fairley  
Rosemary Larking  
Barbara Lischinsky  
Heather Platt  
Girard Plante, Co-Chair  
Jason Rosenberg

### **Staff Present:**

Kathleen Cahill, Community Development Senior Planner

### **Public Present:**

Bev Droz  
Donald Larking  
Janet Razulis  
Debby Smith, Outreach Coordinator, Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library  
Ruth Smith

### **Regrets:**

Jeff Hutter

R. Caruso called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. **Guest Speaker:** Debby Smith, Outreach Coordinator for Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library

Debby Smith, Outreach Coordinator for Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library, spoke to members about the services that the library has to offer to patrons. The library, which is free to the public, serves all New England states (with the exception of Connecticut) as well as Washington D.C. and North Carolina. Approximately 2,000 books are sent out to patrons every day. Since only a small percentage of library patrons read Braille, the new talking book machines that was purchased by Perkins is very popular. The machine has better playback features, improved sound quality and is more user friendly. Perkins Library loans the machines out along with audio recordings, both of which can be sent to patrons through the mail. Patrons can call or email requests for specific books or opt for the audio send feature. Patrons using the audio send feature will receive books that are based on their interests, as

expressed in their application. Ms. Smith distributed applications which are also available online. She encouraged anyone that was interested to sign up for the audio books.

2. **Minutes:** Consider approval of the minutes from the November 8, 2010 meeting of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities.

Two corrections to the minutes were made, these included: changing the date from October 18 to November 8 and changing the reference made to Jeanne Stickland as Executive Director of CAN-DO to Newton Community Development Foundation. H. Platt moved that the minutes be approved. J. Brown seconded the motion and the Board voted 9-0-0 to approve the minutes.

3. **Project Report:** CDBG funded access projects including discussion of announcements of available funding for FY12 funds.

K. Cahill reviewed the current status of projects funded with CDBG Access funds. Members spent time discussing the needed access improvements at the intersection of Washington Street and Commonwealth Avenue. These improvements include the installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) and compliant curb cuts. Recently, \$65,000 in mitigation funds from the Arborpoint Development and the expansion of the Newton-Wellesley Hospital were used to pay for vehicle traffic improvements at this intersection. The City had intended to use a portion of these mitigation funds for accessible improvements at this intersection until a vehicular accident resulted in the expensive replacement of a newly installed Mast Arm. The co-chairs met with the Mayor to see if other funds were available to pay for the installation of APS. After staff discussions with the Department of Public Works it was clear that although everyone believed this was a very worthy project CDBG funds were the only source of funding that was indentified to pay for the APS.

The cost of installing 12 APS at this intersection is \$13,620. Currently, there is \$9,195 in FY10 Accessible Pedestrian Signals to dedicate to these costs. The CDBG Access project 'Projects To Be Determined' has a balance of \$8,000. A total of \$4,425 in Access Projects TBD funds are needed to bridge the gap in funding. H. Platt made a motion to recommend the transfer of \$4,425 in Access Projects TBD funds to FY10 APS. J. Brown seconded the motion and the Committee voted 8-1-0 to recommend the transfer of funding.

4. **Nomination Subcommittee:** January elections

L. Chansky made a motion to overrule the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities' Statement of Mission and Organizational Structure, which states that an

election be held every January for a chair/co-chairs, and to sustain the Committee's current co-chairs, Girard Plante and Rob Caruso. J. Rosenberg seconded the motion and the Committee voted 9-0-0 to sustain the current co-chairs of the Committee.

5. **Report:** Report on the activities of the Fair Housing Committee by Girard Plante.

G. Plante was unable to attend the last Fair Housing Committee meeting.

6. **Report:** Members and public report on any issues of non-compliance in the City which are then forwarded to the Inspectional Services Department.

R. Caruso indicated that he believes the New England Mobile Book Fair has less accessible parking than it is required to by law. It is difficult to get into the building because the ramp is non-compliant and there is no automatic door opener. K. Cahill will contact David Norton in the Inspectional Service Department about these issues. R. Caruso offered to accompany David on a site visit.

## **7. Other Business**

Members of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities asked K. Cahill to send a letter to the Mayor and the Public Buildings Department, on behalf of the Committee, to express appreciation for the improvements to the accessible Homer Street entrance to City Hall.

K. Cahill notified members that the Mayor docketed the establishment of a Disabilities Commission with the Board of Aldermen. This item will likely be referred to the Programs and Services Committee at the Board's December 20, 2010 meeting.

Members requested that the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities have an opportunity to provide input into any new appointments of members, in response to the recent notice seeking new members placed in the Newton TAB.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities**  
**CDBG Access Projects Report**  
**January 10, 2011**

**Accessible Pedestrian Signals** (Project CD10-03D. Expended, \$7,818; Budget balance: \$17,995; CD10-03D). Centre St. and Centre Ave. is a priority intersection; however it is on-hold pending a final decision by the Newton Corner Advisory Committee. Installation of APS improvements at Washington St. and Commonwealth Ave. will be reviewed by the Mayor in early February after a 30 day public comment period which began at the Planning and Development Board's public hearing (1.3.11). Installation of APS at Washington Street by Newton-Wellesley Hospital will begin next Spring after curb cut/crosswalk work is completed.

**Charlesbank Playground** (Project CD0903C. Expended, \$22,872; Budget balance: \$7,125). Phase I includes new play equipment and swings on top of rubberized safety surfacing, a new accessible entrance ramp, accessible benches and picnic tables, and planting of new trees and shrubs. CDBG access funds will pay for the accessible entrance ramp. The project is 80% complete – all walkways, new sidewalks and the ramp have been installed as well as the play equipment and the rubberized safety surfacing. Handrails for the ramp still need to be installed and the area needs to be seeded.

**Curb Cuts** (Project CD1003C, Expended: \$33,503 Budget balance: \$129,326). Five curb cuts were completed at Crafts @ Watertown Street. Traffic Engineer evaluating design for Walnut @ Newtonville and @ Austin Street. Work at Lowell @ Washington will be in Spring.

**Retrofitting Curb Cuts** (Project CD0903E, Budget balance, \$6,000). A total of 7 locations (Homer Street, Beacon St. @ Dalton, Centre Green @ Langley, 1188 Centre Green, 82 Lincoln Street, 100 Walnut Street, 28 Commonwealth St) (19 curb cuts) were fitted with tactile warnings. Project 100% complete. Awaiting final labor bill from DPW (expected soon!).

**Nahanton Accessible Pathway and Handicap Parking Space** (CD09-03, Expended: 15,051; Budget balance: \$7,783)

Project includes retrofitting park for handicap accessibility through the construction of an accessible pathway and the addition of a van accessible parking space. Construction began mid-September. Accessible pathway complete, HP space installed (no striping), water mitigation work still needs to be completed.

**Newton Community Service Center – Auditorium Ramp** (CD11-03E, Budget balance: 5,000). Construction of an accessible ramp in the auditorium of the organization's Waltham Street location. NCSC reviewing and making changes to

schedule of construction internally before agreement is executed.

**Historic Newton/The Jackson Homestead – Archives Preservation and Access** (CD1103F, Budget balance \$40,000). Construction of an accessible ramp into the entrance of the Jackson Homestead. Design work being finalized.

**Project(s) to be Determined** (CD1103H, Budget balance \$3,575 – pending transfer). These are unallocated funds reserved for projects recommended for funding by the MCPD on a rolling basis.

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# Commission on Disabilities

## Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 4:00pm

## Contact Information:

*365 Boston Rd.  
Billerica, Ma 01821  
Phone: 978-667-1258  
TTY: 978-663-9239*

## About Us

### Important Phone Numbers:

EMERGENCY: 911

BCOD: 978-667-1258

TTY: 978-663-9239

ROADRUNNER: 978-459-0152

LIBRARY: 978-671-0949

SENIOR CENTER: 978-671-0916

**Our Mission:** To bring about full and equal participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life.

## Who Are We?

- An advisory group of Billerica residents deeply concerned about disability issues

## **What Have We Done?**

- Developed administrative building blocks: annual budget and annual report.
- Identified access problems in existing public facilities and worked with the Town to correct them.
- Established liaisons with town services such as the library.
- Have a partnership with the Library ([www.billericalibrary.org](http://www.billericalibrary.org)) Town Departments and Officials to make Billerica a better and safer place for all.
- Helped with sidewalk improvements.
- Continue to educate the public about Handicap Parking.
- Donating equipment needed to the Library for their Outreach program, as well as their in-house needs.
- Have equipment such as lightweight wheel chairs, walkers and a Beach wheel chair, that can be used on a temporary basis.

## **Who benefits by handicap access improvements?**

- People using mobility devices: scooters, walkers, canes.
- Senior Citizens.
- New parents: Carriages.
- Children: lower phones, water fountains.
- People with Temporary physical disabilities.
- Delivery personnel: vendors, movers.

## **What are our strengths?**

- Many years of relevant experience, personal or professional, in dealing with disabilities.
- Diverse representation from public and private sectors, the student, working, and retired public we serve.
- Access to resources via multiple networks to help solve disability issues.

## **What are our goals?**

- Enhance mobility, employment and educational opportunities for disabled people.
- Monitor Billerica's compliance with laws, including, but not limited, to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Help disabled people lead productive lives and become productive citizens.
- Provide disability information and advocacy.
- Conduct/review ADA surveys and seminars.
- Sponsor awareness programs for children, senior citizens, business owners, professionals



and the general public.

### **When do we meet?**

- Open meeting monthly at 10:30am every third Tuesday.

### **How can you help?**

- Volunteers are welcome and needed to carry out the goals of the commission. Please call.

In partnership with the [Billerica Public Library](#)

**Total Views:** 4424

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[http://www.town.billerica.ma.us/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=12&Itemid=159](http://www.town.billerica.ma.us/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12&Itemid=159)

## About The Commission

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### The Watertown Commission on Disability (WCOD)

[Massachusetts General Law section 8J of Chapter 40](#) provides for the creation of a town COMMISSION ON DISABILITY, “to cause the full integration and participation of people with disabilities.”  
\_ In February 1994 the Watertown Town Council - through an ordinance (#94-04) created Watertown’s Commission on Disability.

### WHO WE ARE

The seven member commission consists of :

- Town residents with disabilities who make up the majority
- A representative from the town council
- A guardian with a child or family member with a disability

The Commission on Disability is committed to promoting full access to town and community services, programs, and businesses for all individuals with disabilities. Please see our [Mission Statement](#) for more information.

If you are interested in becoming a member and meet the above criteria, please contact us by one of the methods listed below:

- Phone 617.972.6443 Gayle Shattuck ADA Liaison
- Email: [gshattuck@ci.watertown.ma.us](mailto:gshattuck@ci.watertown.ma.us)

### WHAT WE DO

The Commission sponsors activities and programs encouraging municipal and community services, programs, and businesses in Watertown to be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities.

The Commission provides advocacy, trainings, educational materials, and consultation in its effort to serve all people equally. Our accomplishments include, but are not limited to:

### Watertown Disability - Friendly Business Program

A brochure created to educate businesses on their obligations to provide access for all individuals with disabilities. This guide will be available to download in pdf format soon. A hardcopy is available by contacting the town ADA Liason Gayle Shattuck. The commission also provides consultation and advocacy on an as-needed basis.

### [Accessible Dining Guide](#)

Developed by the Commission, a popular guide to local restaurants noting the accessibility, locations, and services provided by each restaurant. The guide is available online and available to download in PDF format. In an effort to protect the environment and its resources, we will no longer be printing the guide. While supplies last, it is available in hard copy, large print, Braille and audio tape by contacting Gayle Shattuck, Watertown ADA Liaison. View the [updated online version](#) of the guide.

### [Download Dining Guide](#)

### *Disability Awareness*

The Commission has developed and presented a two-hour training for all Watertown employees. The Commission provides ongoing consultation to all town departments, the town council and other governmental boards, commissions, and committees.

### *Snow Removal Ordinance*

Requiring businesses in Watertown to provide a clear travel path for all persons on sidewalks. The Snow Ordinance is available by clicking on the link: [Snow Ordinance](#). Hard copies are available at the administration building 149 Main street Watertown 02472

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Some of the responsibilities of the Commission on Disability and based on our [Mission Statement](#) includes but is not limited to:

- Research local problems affecting persons with disabilities
- Advise and assist the town's administration and elected officials regarding disability issues.
- Monitor and ensure compliance with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations affecting people with disabilities.
- Coordinate and implement programs designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities and their families.
- Provide information, referrals, guidance, [resources](#) and technical assistance on all matters pertaining to disability.
- Support activities of other local groups organized for similar purposes.

The members of the Commission on Disabilities for 2010/2011 are:

George Donahue - Chair - Term Expires 11/1/2012

Carol Menton - Past Chair - Term Expires 11/1/2012

Judith T. Herberg - Member - Term Expires 11/1/2012

Fred Isaacs - Secretary - Term Expires 11/1/2011  
Alex Liazos - Member - Term expires 11/1/2011  
Anne Doughty - Member - Term Expires 11/1/2011  
Carol Wilson-Braun - Member - Term Expires 11/1/2010  
Kim Charlson - Member - Term Expires 11/1/2010  
Councilor position Vacant - Term Expires 11/1/2010

Chairperson - [George Donahue](#)  
ADA Liaison- [Gayle Shattuck](#)

*Posted by webmaster on September 9, 2010*